

CLAIMS:

We claim:

1        1. A method of processing requests from location-based service applications for  
2        location-based services provided by a plurality of disparate location-based service  
3        providers, comprising the steps of the location service:  
4              receiving requests for location based-services;  
5              determining from each said request a particular location-based service provider  
6        which can service said request;  
7              specifically formatting each said request according to a specific format specified  
8        by said particular location-based service provider;  
9              uniformly formatting each said result set; and,  
10          forwarding said uniformly formatted result sets to the location-based service  
11        applications.

1        2. The method of claim 1, wherein said uniformly formatted result sets are result  
2        sets which have been formatted according to the Geography Markup Language (GML).

1        3. A common location-based service adapter interface, comprising:  
2              a uniform input interface through which location-based services can be  
3        requested using a uniform format which is independent of any specific formatting  
4        required by a particular service adapter configured to process said location-based  
5        services; and,

6                   and a uniform output interface through which specifically formatted result sets  
7       can be formatted using said uniform format.

1       4.     The common location-based service adapter interface of claim 3, wherein said  
2       uniform input interface comprises:

3                   a plurality of location-based service adapter objects, each said adapter object  
4       being configured to provide said at least one location-based service responsive to  
5       receiving a uniformly formatted location-based service request;

6                   a location service object configured to provide a reference to a particular one of  
7       said location-based service adapter objects based upon a specified location-based  
8       service; and,

9                   a plurality of location request objects configured to define location-based service  
10      request parameters required by generic ones of said location-based service adapter  
11      objects.

1       5.     A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for  
2       processing requests from location-based service applications for location-based  
3       services provided by a plurality of disparate location-based service providers, the  
4       computer program comprising a routine set of instructions for causing the machine to  
5       perform the steps of:

6                   receiving requests for location based-services;

7                   determining from each said request a particular location-based service provider  
8       which can service said request;

9           specifically formatting each said request according to a specific format specified  
10          by said particular location-based service provider, and uniformly formatting each said  
11          result set; and,

12           forwarding said uniformly formatted result sets to the location-based service  
13          applications.

1       6.      The machine readable storage of claim 5, wherein said uniformly formatted  
2          result sets are result sets which have been formatted according to the Geography  
3          Markup Language (GML).